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For Immediate Release...

Corrections News

April 25, 2007

The Missouri Department of Corrections is participating in various ceremonies for Crime Victims' Rights Week, which runs from April 22-28.

Department of Corrections Honors Crime Victims With Special Ceremonies Across the State

Highlighting the theme "Every Victim, Every Time", the Missouri Department of Corrections is participating in various ceremonies for Crime Victims' Rights Week, which runs from April 22-28.

"Each year, Department staff participates in Crime Victims' Rights Week, in cooperation with representatives from their community," said Department Victim Service Coordinator Kay Crockett. "Staff have done an excellent job of honoring victims of crime and ensuring they know how much we value their rights and the vital role they play in the correctional process."

The State observance and ceremony is set for Thursday at noon in the Capitol Rotunda. Governor Matt Blunt, Attorney General Jay Nixon, survivor Pat Combs and Buchanan County Prosecutor Dwight Scroggins will be the featured speakers.

Numerous ceremonies and events around the state are being held. Missouri Eastern Correctional Center (MECC) offenders are weeding flower beds and painting benches this week at Pacific Park. MECC staff on Tuesday walked the perimeter silently while honoring crime victims. Probation and Parole District 33 Administrator Rick Robinson will deliver opening remarks at noon today at a ceremony at Big Spring Park. On Friday at noon, a ceremony for staff and offenders will be held at Chillicothe Correctional Center. The guest speaker is with the organization "Parents of Murdered Children". Offenders who have completed Impact of Crime on Victims Class (ICVC) will read essays, and will provide music. Also on Friday, Probation and Parole District 37 staff will participate in a 5K walk to raise money for the women's shelter in Dexter. District 37 has also broadened the scope of Crime Victims' Rights Week, by collecting shoes for Iraqi children. Staff at District 37 have collected about 50 pairs of shoes. On Saturday at noon, Jefferson City Correctional Center (JCCC) and Algoa Correctional Center will hold a joint event at JCCC, where a victims' wall will be unveiled. The victims' wall consists of decorated shoeboxes made by offenders in the Restorative Justice program.

"The Department's activities this week reflect our year-round commitment to crime victims' rights."

Director Larry Crawford

Offenders volunteer or are mandated to attend ICVC in prison or while on probation or parole. Offenders come face-to-face with victims of all types of crime in these classes. Victims explain to offenders how crime has affected their lives. The aim is to help offenders develop sensitivity toward victims, and prevent future victimization. In 2006, about 7,700 offenders participated in ICVC classes, with about 131,800 hours recorded.

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